CLAIMS

1. A device for steeping barley, comprising a container for barley to be steeped, with a floor provided with passageways for passing water between the underside of the floor and the barley to be steeped in the container, characterized in that a water line system under the floor (4) is directly connected to passageways (6) for steeping water and/or gases through these passageways (6).

2. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the water line system is suitable for discharging water from the barley (5) to be steeped through the passageways (6).

3. The device according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the water line system is set up in such a way as to supply water to the barley (5) to be steeped through the passageways (6) starting from the underside of the floor (4).

4. The device according to claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that the passageways (6) are provided with sieves (8).

5 The device according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, characterized in that the container (2) has a round shape when viewed from above, wherein the passageways (6) are arranged in radially oriented rows (7, 7a, 7b).

6. The device according to claim 5, characterized in that adjacent radially oriented rows (7, 7a, 7b) have a varying length.

7. The device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the water line system is provided under the floor (4) with a number of shared water line elements and water branch line elements between a shared water line element and a passageway (6).

8. The device according to claim 5 or 6 and according to claim 7, characterized in that the shared water line elements are radially oriented.

9. The device according to claim 8, characterized in that the shared water line elements are oriented between two adjacent, radially oriented rows (7) of passageways (6) when viewed from above.

10. The device according to one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that a number of shared water line elements are connected to a water main line element.

11. The device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a reservoir is provided for cleaning agents, which is connected by a cleaning agent valve with the water line system to supply cleaning agent to the water line system.

12. The device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a $CO_2$ line system is connected under the floor (4) directly to passageways (6) for removing $CO_2$ from the barley (5) to be steeped through these passageways (6).

13. The device according to claim 12, characterized in that the $CO_2$ line system is provided under the floor (4) with a number of shared $CO_2$ line elements (16) and $CO_2$ branch line elements between a shared $CO_2$ line element (16) and a passageway (6).

14. The device according to claim 13, characterized in that a number of shared $CO_2$ line elements are connected to a $CO_2$ main line element.

15. The device according to claim 6 or a dependent claim and according to 13 or a dependent claim, characterized in that the shared water line elements and shared $CO_2$ line elements are formed at least in part by the same shared line elements.

16. The device according to claim 6 or a dependent claim and according to 13 or a dependent claim, characterized in that the water branch line elements and the $CO_2$ branch line elements are formed at least in part by the same branch line elements.

17. The device according to claim 9 or a dependent claim and according to 15 or a dependent claim, characterized in that water valves (19, 20, 21) are provided between the shared line elements and the water main line element.

18. The device according to claim 14 or a dependent claim and according to 15 or a dependent claim, characterized in that $CO_2$ valves (22) are provided between the shared line elements and the $CO_2$ main line element.

19. The device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that an air line system is connected under the floor (4) to passageways (6) in order to pass air to the barley (5) to be steeped through these passageways (6).

20. The device according to claim 19, characterized in that the air line system is provided with a number of shared air line elements and air branch line elements between a shared air line element and a passageway (6), preferably under the floor (4).

21. The device according to claim 20, characterized in that a number of shared air line elements is connected to an air main line element (14).

22. The device according to claim 21, characterized in that air valves (23) are provided between the shared air line elements and the air main line element (14).

23. The device according to claim 22, characterized in that a control system is provided that is suitable for the individual or group operation of various air valves (23).

24. The device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the container (2) is provided near its upper side with a scraper in order to scrape or collect elements circulating on the water as the scraper body (30) shifts in a displacement direction along the surface of the water.

25. The device according to claim 23 and claim 24, characterized in that the control system is suitable for opening one or several air valves (23) that are located on the front side of the scraper body (30) viewed from above in the displacement direction.

26. The device according to at least one of claims 1 to 25, characterized in that the floor (4) has a partially open, gas-permeable surface making up less than 5% of the overall surface.

27. The device according to at least one of claims 1 to 26, characterized in that the percentage of open surface measures less than 3%.

28. The device according to at least one of claims 1 to 27, characterized in that the line systems are stepped.

29. The device according to at least one of claims 1 to 28, characterized in that the line systems are routed to the outside at or under floor (4) level.